

**HAZARD DUTY PAY FOR MEMBERS
OF THE ARMY**

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Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a bill, H. R. 7973, which will provide for the payment under certain specified conditions of extra pay to cer-

tain ground combat personnel in Korea who are subjected to enemy ground fire for a minimum period of 6 days in any 1 month. What I have proposed here is in the final analysis, not a new concept but only a recognition of the clear duty of the Congress and the American people to extend the accepted principle of extra pay for extra hazardous duty into that area which constitutes the most hazardous of all duties—the daily life of the ground combat man.

We have long recognized in this country, both in the civilian economy and in the military, the equity and justice of providing additional pay for those who engage in activities more hazardous than those required of the average individual. In the civilian economy we give extra pay to the topper in the lumber camp, the sandhog, the mucker, and the explosive expert. In the military we have long provided additional pay for fliers, submariners, divers, parachutists, demolition men and others. What we have failed to recognize is that in adapting the pattern of additional pay from the civilian economy to the military, we have failed miserably to make comparable provisions for those men whose occupation has no counterpart in the civilian economy, yet whose daily life is the most hazardous, the most uncomfortable, and the least desirable of any known to man.

There are many controversies and many disagreements in our daily lives but I feel that if there is one point on which you could obtain universal agreement within this country of ours, it is that the man who meets the enemy on the ground, in the mud, heat, snow, and cold and who daily wrests from him a small piece of ground at the point of a gun or bayonet, is the man who really bears the brunt of the dangers, tortures, and discomforts of war.

Ernie Pyle who knew and loved these men, gave a clear picture when he said:

The line moved on, seemingly endless. All afternoon men kept coming round the hill and vanishing eventually over the horizon. It was one long tired line of antlike men. There was agony in your heart and you almost felt ashamed to look at them. They were just guys from Broadway and Main Street but you wouldn't remember them. They were too far away now. They were too tired. Their world can never be known to you, but if you could have seen them just once, just for an instant, you would know that no matter how hard people are working back home they never kept pace with these infantrymen.

The term "infantrymen" which Mr. Pyle used could well be extended to include men of all the uniformed services who perform their mission side by side with and under the same terrible conditions as the traditional dogface. It is not a question of branch, rank, insignia, or service—it is rather the proposition that all men who fight under the conditions which are the normal lot of the doughboy should be recognized and treated the same as he.

I am aware that in past discussions on bills similar to mine there have arisen in the minds of our Members questions regarding the feasibility and desirability of such a bill. I feel that there can be no question whatsoever as to the

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desirability of my measure. It seeks to remedy an inequity which has existed for many years in our military-pay system and which exists today even after the passage of the Career Compensation Act of 1949; to recognize our obligation to provide additional compensation for those soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who play the most dangerous game of all—combat on the ground. It is highly significant and pleasing to me to examine the record and find that over 30 Members of this Congress have sponsored legislation which in varying forms would provide additional compensation for these men—the unsung heroes who have exposed their lives in actual battle.

Regarding the feasibility of my bill, I feel confident that it will work. Too many of our Members have dismissed it in the past with the subjective feeling that such a thing would be administratively impossible. Having had such feelings myself, I took the liberty of doing a little digging to find out just how the bill would be administered. Although I do not think it appropriate or necessary to go into any great amount of detail at this time, let me repeat that I am confident that the military services can and will administer properly the provisions of this bill. The greatest objection has come in regard to the administration of the retroactive feature of the bill. The question has been asked, "How can anyone possibly determine the eligibility for combat pay of the many thousands of individuals who have served in Korea since the outbreak of hostilities there on June 27, 1950?" I have personally examined actual samples of the several kinds of service records which will be used to determine this eligibility. I am frankly amazed at the completeness and accuracy of the records maintained by the military even under the most heated conditions of combat.

Briefly, the system which is planned for use by the Army—which will, of course, be the major participant under the terms of this bill—is this: The Far East Command will determine from its daily combat records those units which qualify under the terms of the bill as specified by Congress; that is, those units which were in actual contact with the enemy. Once the qualified units are determined, it then becomes a matter of determining the eligibility of individual members of those units, past and present. This will be done on the basis of individual applications from those members which applications will be verified by the Adjutant General, Department of the Army, prior to payment. Verification will be based upon a check of the applications against the retained records of the individual soldier. As I said before, I am confident that the records on file in the Department of the Army will be adequate for this purpose, and that this procedure can be accomplished in comparatively short time, and at relatively small cost.

Once the retroactive payments have been completed, the daily administration of the bill can be accomplished at no additional cost. It will involve merely an additional entry on existing rec-

ords by administrative personnel already provided for such purposes. I am informed that as early as November 1950, when combat in Korea was at its most intense level, the commander in chief, Far East Command, in support of his request for recognition of the man in combat, notified the Department of the Army that the administrative problem to be encountered in the administration of a bill such as I have submitted would be relatively minor and that he was confident that administration could be effectively and equitably accomplished.

In summary, I am convinced that my bill, H. R. 7973, is designed so as to correct existing inequities, with fairness to the Government, the respective services, and the individuals within each service. That such a law can and will be administered properly, and at a cost which is not at all prohibitive. I feel that the utter justice of such legislation is most evident, and that our duty to take immediate action is both clear and compelling. Let this present Congress show to these brave men—over 70 percent of whom are not volunteers—that our hearts are with them as they march away, and that the gratitude of this great Nation follows them to the very front lines, where, with unfaltering courage, they stem the tide which, unchecked, would overwhelm us all. May our action be as forthright and timely as theirs.

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